

**Westport Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Remote Meeting
April 02, 2024**

Present: Karen Raus (Chair) , Cindy Brown (Vice-Chair), Al Lees, Zachary Lebreux, Duncan Law, Hugh Morton, Michelle Orlando, Gary Carreiro , Christopher Thrasher

Also Present: Betty Slade

Karen Raus called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, and a Pledge of Allegiance.

Karen Raus read the following: This meeting is being held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts '*March 12, 2020, order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A Section 20 and on March 29, 2023, Governor Healey signed a Supplemental 2023 Budget Bill allowing remote and hybrid meetings options for public bodies through March 31, 2025. This meeting is being recorded.*

Karen Raus (Chair) opened the meeting by mentioning we will be reviewing and voting on the Warrant Articles and the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Betty Slade was present to give a presentation of their warrant articles.

1.Review Warrant Articles:

Karen Raus opened the meeting to Betty Slade of the Community Preservation Committee on Articles 13.

There were questions and discussions by Finance Committee members in regard to the Article. Karen continued with a motion for Article 13 (See below Chart) for the motion and recommendation.

2.Recommendations for Annual Town Meeting:

The Town Administrator needs to finalize the Warrant, and the Select Board was looking to finalize the warrant on April 8, 2024, and were looking for any final edits.

Article 4 FY25 Budget

Karen mentioned for is our FY25 budget there's been no new information from the town administrator, nor further information from the state in regard to state aid.

From previous meetings, the following items were still to be discussed:

There were discussions regarding open items amongst the finance committee in regard to the town engineer, and animal control and school budget. The Finance Committee voted on each line item see below.

1) Town Engineer – new position.

The Finance Committee discussed this with Jim Hartnett at a previous meeting.

Motion: There was a motion made by Cindy Brown to leave the Town Engineer as requested in the budget recommended by the SelectBoard Hugh Morton seconded, the roll call vote was 8-1. Morton;aye ,Carreiro nay; Thrasher; Brown ;aye , Orlando ;aye Lebreux;aye Law;aye,Raus;aye,Lees;aye

2) Animal Control – additional funds for a part-time assistance

At a previous meeting, the finance Committee discussed the understaffing, The Board of Health submitted a proposal for an additional \$25,000.

Motion: Cindy Brown motioned that we include an additional \$25,000 in the Animal Control officer budget for a part time person. Zach Lebreux seconded ,the roll call vote was 9-0 Morton;aye Carreiro ;aye ,Thrasher;aye, Lees;aye, Brown ;aye Orlando ;aye , Lebreux ;aye Law ;aye Raus;aye.

3) School Budget

The Finance Committee recognizes the needs of the School Department, but the fiscal situation limits the amount of funding available. The Finance Committee noted the FY24 budget included 500,000 of free cash and the draft 5-year operating plan called for a reduction of \$100,000 each year for 5 years. The Select Board budget included \$400,000 of free cash (which was the \$100,000 reduction from FY24) and an addition \$252,125 of additional revenue sharing in addition to the normal 54% sharing. These additional funds amounted to \$652,125 and exceeded the \$500,000 from FY24.

Motion: Hugh Morton motioned to keep the formula for the same the town 54% and 46% for the school Cindy Brown seconded the roll call vote was 9-0 Morton ;aye Carreiro ;aye Thrasher;aye Lees;aye,Brown ;aye, Orlando;aye Lebreux ;aye Law;aye Raus;aye

Motion: Hugh Morton made a motion to make \$500,000 for school budget from free cash. Al Lees seconded the roll call vote was 6-3. Morton;aye,Carreiro ;nay Thrasher;nay Lees ;aye Brown;aye, Orlando;nay Lebreux;aye,Law;aye ,Raus;aye

Motion: Cindy Brown made the motion to approve Article 4 of the budget as amended subject to change reducing free cash \$152,125 and reducing school expense number \$152,125 Hugh Morton seconded the roll call vote was 7-2 Morton;ayeCarreiro;nay,Thrasher;nay, Lees ;aye, Brown;aye Orlando;aye Lebreux;aye Law;aye Raus;aye

The committee discussed the Free Cash numbers \$522,000 total broken down \$250,000 to Capitalization \$100,000 to Stabilization approximately \$172,000 Balance to free cash (carry - over).

The Finance Committee discussed the remaining warrant articles and voted to make recommendations on the rest of the articles during the meeting.

See Below of Warrant Articles and Motions made *

3. Committee/Liaison updates: N/A

4.Approval of Minutes: N/A

5.Meeting Schedule: N/A

6. Correspondence: N/A

7.Topic for next Meeting Agenda: N/A

8. Adjourn :There being no further business to come before this meeting a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:58pm was made by Cindy Brown and Zach Lebreux seconded the roll call vote was 9-0 all in favor. Raus; aye, Lees; aye, Brown; aye. Lebreux; aye, Morton ;aye Law ;aye, Orlando; aye.Carreiro;aye,Thrasher;aye

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica McKane
Finance Committee Recording Clerk

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:

Fy25FINCOM DRAFT 04-01-24xlsx
5-7-24 ATM Warrant 10th Draft KP Law.DOC
Free Cash FInCom 04-01-24.xlsx
5-7-24 ATM Warrant Articles index.doc
5-7-24 ATM Warrant 8th Draft.doc
Fincom vote chart ATM24 as of 3-26-udatedjm.xlsx
2024 AGENDA April 2, 2024, Finance Committee .docx
03-19-24 Meeting Minutes Finance Committee.pdf

NR (No recommendation)

Finance Committee Recommendations For ATM 2024																									
	A	N	A	A	A	B	A	B	S	T	A	I	N												
	A	N	A	A	A	B	A	B	S	T	A	I	N	Meeting Date	Motion to										
														Hugh Morton	Gary Carriero										
														C.Thrasher	Al Lees										
														Cindy Brown	Michelle Orlando										
														Zachary Lebreau	Duncan Law										
														Karen Raus											
Article 1																									
Article 2	9	0	0	0	0								4/2/2024	In support Yes	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 3	9	0	0	0	0								4/2/2024	In support Yes	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 4	7	2	0	0	0								4/2/2024	In support Yes	Aye 2nd	NAY	NAY	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 5	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Article 6	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Article 7	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Article 8	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Article 9	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Article 10	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Article 11	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	absent	absent	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Article 12	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	absent	absent	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Article 13	7	0	2	0									4/2/2024	ABSTAIN	Aye	Aye	Aye	ABSTAIN	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	2nd	Aye	
Article 14	3	6	0	0									4/2/2024	In support Yes	Aye	NAY	Aye 2nd	NAY	Aye	Aye motioned	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY	
Article 15	3	6	0	0									4/2/2024	In support Yes	Aye	NAY	Aye 2nd	NAY	Aye	Aye motioned	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY	
Article 16	3	6	0	0									4/2/2024	In support Yes	Aye	NAY	Aye 2nd	NAY	Aye	Aye motioned	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY	
Article 17	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye	absent	absent	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 18	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye	absent	absent	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 19	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 20	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye 2nd	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 21																									
Article 22	9	0	0	0									4/2/2024	To make NR	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 23	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 24	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 25	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 26	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 27	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 28	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye 2nd	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 29	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye	absent	absent	Aye2nd	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 30	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye	absent	absent	Aye2nd	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 31	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	In support Yes	Aye	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	
Article 32	8	0	1	0									4/2/2024	To make NR	Aye	Aye	ABSTAIN	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	2nd	Aye	
Article 33	8	1	0	0									4/2/2024	To make NR	Aye motioned	Aye2nd	NAY	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 34	9	0	0	0									4/2/2024	NOT SUPPORT	Aye motioned	Aye2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 35	9	0	0	0									4/2/2024	To make NR	Aye2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 36	9	0	0	0									4/2/2024	To make NR	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 37	9	0	0	0									4/2/2024	NOT SUPPORT	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	2nd	Aye	
Article 38	9	0	0	0									4/2/2024	To make NR	Aye	Aye2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 39	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	To make NR	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 40	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024	To make NR	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 41	7	0	0	2									3/26/2024		Aye	absent	absent	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	
Article 42	9	0	0	0									4/2/2024	To make NR	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 43	6	3	0	0									4/2/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Nay	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	Nay	Aye	NAY	
Article 44	6	3	0	0									4/2/2024	In support Yes	Aye	2nd	Aye	NAY	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye	NAY	Aye	NAY	
Article 45	9	0	0	0									4/2/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	
Article 46	9	0	0	0									4/2/2024	In support Yes	Aye motioned	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye motioned	Aye 2nd	Aye	Aye	Aye	